

# Town of Craftsbury Application for Community Development Block Grant Cares Act Public Facility Funding (CDBG-CV) to Renovate Air Handling System at Craftsbury Care Center

Public Hearing, Town of Craftsbury, October 19, 2021



# Background

**The mission of the Craftsbury Community Care Center is to provide a caring, homelike, affordable residence for seniors in a setting that encourages independence, activities and involvement with families, friends and the larger community.**

- We have 24 resident rooms available, each with a private bath, patio and individual heating controls.
- We provide programming and activities for residents as well as members of the larger community
- We serve as the center of our community's Meals on Wheels program
- We provide employment to community members and support local vendors.

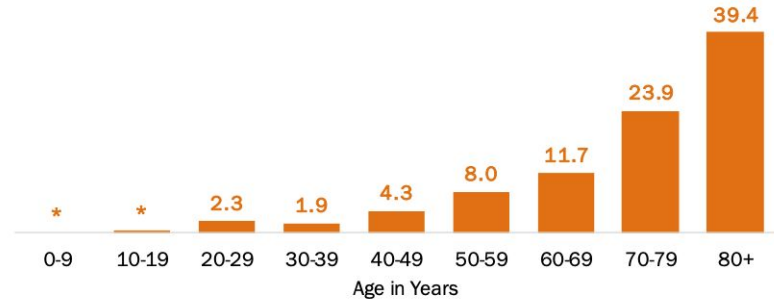


# Challenges Presented by the Pandemic

Although we rigorously observed all CDC guidelines, at one point during the epidemic we had 29 infected members, 15 residents and 14 staff, and we were very distressed to lose two of our residents to the disease. Improving the quality of our ventilation system with high quality air will help maintain overall health and prevent the transmission of a range of diseases, including Covid-19 and yearly surges of influenza.

**Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19.**

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



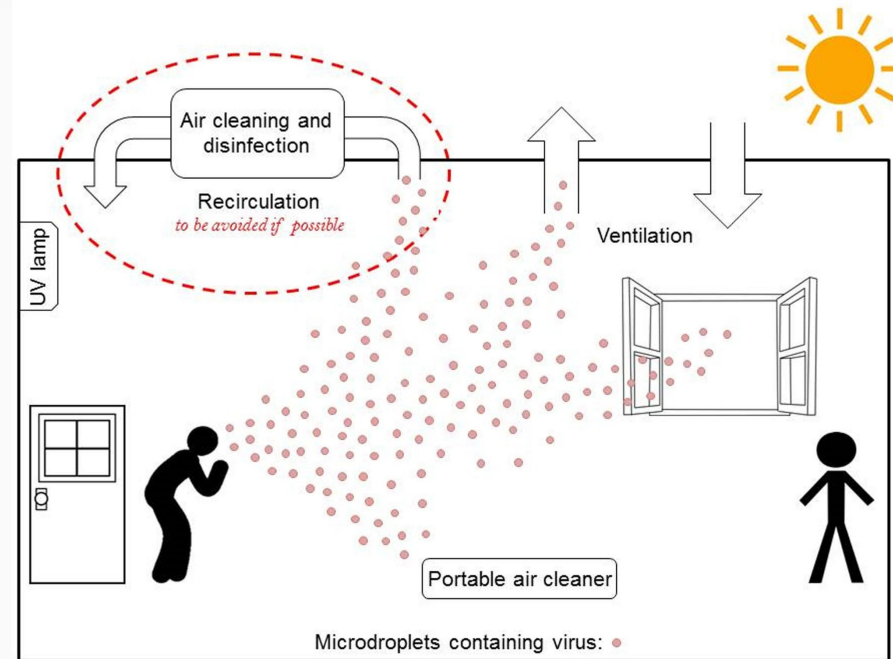
# Summary of Project

The Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) is requesting that the Town of Craftsbury apply for Community Development Block Grant Cares Act Public Facility Funding (CDBG-CV) from the State of Vermont, with the CCCC as subgrantee. This funding was allocated by the federal government to support local agencies and organizations in responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.



# The Importance of Ventilation Systems

Ventilation with clean outdoor air is healthier because it removes viruses and other particles, and it also removes gas, like the carbon dioxide that everyone makes when they breathe out. Our current system relies on recirculated air, which is more likely to transmit the virus. However, outdoor air is hard to heat or cool, so most ventilation systems use at least some recirculated air. Our renovation includes ventilation with outside air and a new insulation for the building, which will make it more energy efficient.





# CARES ACT COVID FUNDING

- The federal CARES Act includes \$5 billion in funding for the HUD- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
- Vermont's share will result in more than \$4.7 million to assist communities across the state recovery from COVID-19.
- This special allocation of CDBG funds will be available to rapidly respond to COVID-19 and the economic and housing impacts it has caused
- This is a unique opportunity for the Craftsbury Care Center; as a small organization we find it difficult to raise sums for large improvement projects.



# What the CBDG-CV Grant would Fund

- **AIR QUALITY:** Air quality improvements will include increasing the amount of fresh air introduced into the building, replacing the current building exhaust system with heat recovery ventilation, and installing a heating and ventilation control system that will monitor air quality and compensate for changes in building use and environmental conditions.
- **HEAT DISTRIBUTION:** This will be improved through improved air circulation and a control system that monitors and adjusts for building use patterns and environmental conditions.
- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** The building energy efficiency will be addressed by decreasing air infiltration at the building shell, improvements to the attic insulation envelope, installation of heating controls that will modulate to accommodate use patterns, and the use of energy recovery ventilation units to capture the heat from the building exhaust system.

# Responsibilities of the Town

- **This is a grant, not a loan.** The town is not responsible for generating the funding identified in the grant budget. However, the town will be the intermediary for funds through a subgrant agreement between the town and the CCCC.
- The town will submit requisitions for work that is being done at the Center and will then transfer disbursed funds to the CCCC. The town will also need to submit progress reports to the State.
- With funds from the grant, a part-time consultant can be employed who will perform these services for the town.
- There will also be an environmental review once the grant is awarded, and costs for this review are also reimbursable through the grant agreement.

## Community rallies around care center

Mar 11, 2021

[Local News](#)

VTCNG / News & Citizen / News / Local News





# Timeline of the Work

<b>Date</b>	<b>Concept</b>
October 2021	Submission of Grant Application
November 2021	Notification of Award
November-December 2021	Selection of Grant Manager to be responsible for requisitions, progress reports and other grant requirements, completion of Environmental Review, selection of design and engineering consultants.
December - January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop designs for the renovation and consult with Efficiency Vermont</li><li>• Ensure that construction plan provides minimal disruption to operations and resident comfort</li></ul>
January 2021 - February 2022	Develop plans and specifications suitable for securing competitive contractor bids for the work
February-March 2022	Secure bids from qualified contractors for the work and enter into agreements with contractors for the construction
April - October 2022	Construction Phase of Project
November 2022	Expected Project completion

# Budget Overview

## **General Administration: \$24,000**

This includes attorney fees for grant review, costs of public hearings and progress reports, and a part-time grants overview manager to make progress reports and requisitions, and liaison between town and CCCC.

## **Public Facility Rehabilitation: \$509,499**

The bulk of the grant will be spent directly on the renovation project. We will be doing the construction under a lump sum contract for all labor and material to complete the work. The budget includes \$469,499 for the construction contract and \$40,000 for contingencies.

## **Program Management: \$44,000**

**This includes \$38,000 for architectural and engineering fees, environmental review costs and costs involved with compliance with federal labor standards.**

## **Budget Total: \$577,499**

**Costs beyond the \$500,000 grant amount will be paid out of the Craftsbury Care Center General Fund.**

# Next Steps

- A vote will be taken by the Selectboard at the ending of the public hearing to determine whether the town will submit the application.
- There will be a 5-day opportunity for public comment: October 20-25.
- The grant would be submitted before the end of October.
- The Vermont Community Development Board will meet to consider the application on November 18. A decision is expected at that meeting.



# Thank You!

We are proud of the work that we do at the Care Center to provide our residents with a safe and comfortable home environment. We appreciate your support in helping us to insure that we learn from this pandemic and institute the changes needed to protect the health of all of our residents, staff, volunteers and visitors.

